(b) the number of post offices presently computerised;

(c) the total allocation of funds for this project; and

(d) by when the remaining are likely to be computerised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The process of computerisation of big post offices has begun since the Eight Five Year Plan. However, at present there is no plan to provide internet/E-mail facility in the post offices.

(b) A total number of 1306 post offices have been computerised till 31st March, 1999.

(c) A sum of Rs. 41 crores has been allocated for the purpose during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(d) A total of 300 Head Post Offices are proposed to be covered during the remaining plan period i.e. till 31st March, 2002.

Opening of a post office at Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi

2024. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shalimar Bagh, a huge residential and commercial complex in the vicinity of Azadpur Mandi in North Delhi has not been provided with a post office to cater to the needs of lakhs of people of this area; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to open a post office in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) A departmental Post Office was functioning in Shalimar Bagh in a rented building from which it was forcibly evicted on 7.9.98 under the orders of court of law. Due to non-availability of accommodation in the locality, the P.O. was temporarily merged with the nearby New Sabzi Mandi P.O.

(b) A built-up unit measuring 916-64 Sq. ft. in U&V block of Shalimar Bagh has since been purchased from the DDA for housing Shalimar Bagh Post Office. Requisite civil & electric work in the building is in progress.

Setting up of a maritime museum at Dwaraka

2025. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a maritime museum at Dwaraka to promote the submerged city as a tourist spot;

(b) if so, the details of the project; and

(c) by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) A project proposal "Preservation of Under Water Cultural Heritage of India, Dwaraka" has been received for consideration under National Cultural Fund.

The proposal envisages an underwater museum for conservation of the "Submerged city" of Dwaraka and also a maritime museum of antiquities found in excavations at Dwaraka, Somnath and Nageshwar.

(c) A committee with representatives from the ASI, National Institute of Oceanography and Gujarat Tourism has been set up to examine various aspects of the proposal including viability. Future actions would hinge on the recommendations of the committee.

Return of Nizam's jewels to Andhra Pradesh

2026. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to return Nizam's jewels presently kept in RBI valuts in New Delhi for display in Hyderabad Museum;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not yet responding to the request?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Prime Minister suggesting that jewels be kept and displayed in a museum in Hyderabad as they are linked with the history of Nizam dynasty and their display in Hyderabad would boost tourist potential.

After protracted litigation, the Government of India acquired 173 items of jewellery from the Nizam Jewellery Trust and Nizam Supplemental Trust at a cost of Rs. 218 crores. Since these jewels are invaluable and need extraordinary security, they were kept in the Gold Valuts of Reserve Bank Of India, Mumbai. While allowing the Government to acquire the jewellery, the Supreme Court observed that after acquisition, the jewellery would become public property and therefore, the public should have a right of viewing the heritage.